

## REPORT

## CD NO.

LATE DISTR. 3 DEC 51

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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## Morale and the Hope for War-

1. The general morale of the people in Lithuania remains high. Hatred of the Russians, or, to be more exact, of the Bolsheviks and of everything that is Communist, is intense. The Communists are hated by the farmers and ordinary workers even more than by other people. Even the people not maternally in want hate the regime because of the constant sense of fear. When spring comes, everyone prepares his little bundle to be ready for deportation.
2. All the people hope for is war. In 1946 and 1947, they were expecting it month by month and telling each other, "A little more patience, and it will all be over". In later years, they have expected it each spring. War means liberation and would bring them a new life, and it is felt that everyone would prefer to take the risk of dying in the war rather than continuing to live under present conditions. Yet, much as they hope for and expect war, they are now growing tired of talking about it and becoming disillusioned.

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Under these circumstances, it may seem remarkable that there are not many suicides among the Lithuanians. In fact, quite the contrary is true. Seeing with one's own eyes how people perish, living in constant danger of losing one's life, always under a sense of fear, one values one's life much more than in normal times, and seeks to preserve one's life by every possible means, not to put an end to it.

3. The main topic of conversation between friends is always the downfall of Bolshevism. Every Lithuanian is convinced that Bolshevism must perish, but he has learned by bitter experience that, in order to keep out of prison and to survive, he must pretend to be content with the present regime. This pretence is widespread. In the last six years the people have learned how to keep their mouths shut, never to say what they think, never to discuss politics with anybody, particularly anyone who is not a close and absolutely reliable friend. One word of criticism against the

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Document No. 2  
 No Change In Class. ☐  
☐ Declassified  
 Class. Changed To: TS S (C)  
 Auth.: HR 70-2  
 Date: 16 Aug 1986  
 By: ☐

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regime may bring a penalty of five years' imprisonment.

They say, "In our country, for one word only - 5 years. The Communists are regarded as nothing but criminals because of all their past and present deeds, and because of the untold suffering they have caused the nation. Everyone is certain that war must come."

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4. Should war break out, there is little doubt that at least one-third of the Lithuanians would go to the forests and join the partisans. In rural areas particularly, the peasants would try to avoid mobilization by every possible means, and those who were mobilized would try to desert later.

There is also little doubt that, if war should break out now, many innocent people would suffer, as many individuals would take the opportunity to settle private accounts and to seek personal revenge. It might be possible to prevent this by using the right propaganda beforehand in order to influence the people. It must be explained to the people now that everyone who is a member of the Communist Youth Organization is not necessarily bad, that anyone who joins such organizations is not altogether rotten already, that therefore individual action against these persons is not to be tolerated, and that these youths will be accepted back into the national community. Such explanation would prevent the people from looking upon the Communist Youths as traitors. The youths themselves would become stronger in their national feelings and less eager to support the Communist regime now or in the future; they would even be ready to oppose it.

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#### Russians in Lithuania

7. There are many Russians living in Kaunas, possibly up to one-third of the population, but there are no Russian settlers on the land round about.

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The higher officials and the Soviet Army officers form the privileged class. The lower orders occasionally show antipathy to the regime, particularly when under the influence of drink. In fact, when the Soviet soldiers were going back home after the war, they openly sang a song about "going home to stay and sweeping the kolkhozes away", but apparently nothing happened. Lithuanians believe that Hitler lost the war because of his inhuman treatment of the Russians, [redacted]

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Lithuanian Repatriates

9. Lithuanians [redacted] come via Grodno, where they are very carefully screened. Some fail to reach Lithuania; many are engaged to work for the MGB. Once they return to Lithuania, they can never go back to work abroad.

Deportations

10. The mass deportations took place during the spring of 1947 and 1948. Those in 1948 were particularly heavy. They went on for a whole week, and people were deported day and night. In 1947, the people did not take food parcels with them, believing that these might be confiscated. Having heard from relatives in Siberia that they were allowed to keep their things, the people now try to take everything they can with them. In 1948, the deportations were so cruel that even party men could not prevent the tears coming to their eyes, but there was nothing anyone could do. The dwellings of the deported people were then taken over and occupied by Russians.
11. Since then, deportations have taken place frequently, but on a smaller scale. Even this spring (1951) there have been deportations of single families here and there from Kaunas and Siauliai. The deportees live somewhere beyond the Urals. They write often to their relatives in Lithuania, and it is evident that they all hope for war. They are allowed a good deal of freedom, but are not permitted to leave the area. A great many have died, and some groups have had to endure terrible hardships in the Siberian forests in the winter. Of these nobody knows how many have survived. Still, these people are better off than those sentenced to forced labor for 5 - 15 years, or even longer.

Arrests

12. It often happens that the Russians arrest people, hold them for some time in Lithuania, up to a year or more, and then deport them to Siberia, where the interrogation continues. If they are found innocent, they are released and brought back. Very often, such people are engaged to work for the MGB. If the Bolsheviks cannot find any definite cause for suspicion, they do not use torture, but, if any strong suspicion against the arrested person does exist, then every possible form of physical torture is used. Stories are told of incredible brutality.

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